

[41] In addition to the power controller and power module functions discussed above, each node will normally have a system timer function whose operation is slightly different. The system timer is used by modules to schedule the signaling of future events. For example, in a message based implementation, this is accomplished by a code module sending the appropriate message to the system timer specifying the future event time. When this occurs, the system timer returns an appropriate message to the calling code module. Each node has a single system timer and it maintains an ordered list of all future events that have been scheduled. In particular, it keeps track of time for the next event scheduled to occur (which we will refer to as TNS).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12 as follows:

- B12
3. A power management system according to claim 1 in which switching to a low power state by a power controller takes place after a predetermined delay and a re-examination of the status of the signals from the power modules.
 4. A power management system according to claim 1 in which monitoring of input signals by the power controller takes place after switching to a low power state, and the component is switched to a high power state if one of the input signals from the power modules indicates that another component wishes to make use of it.
 5. A power management system according to claim 1 including a system timer to schedule predetermined switches between low and high power states.

B13 7. A power management system according to claims 5 in which the system timer only causes the component to switch to a low power state if the time interval until the next scheduled high power state exceeds a predetermined limit.

8. A power management system according to claim 1 in which at least one power controller is provided integrally with a power module wherein that power controller can receive signals from other power modules and the power module can send out signals to other power controllers indicating whether its associated component wishes to make use of any other components.

B14 12. A power controller according to claim 9 wherein the apparatus is a part of a network.

Please add new claims 13 – 20 as follows:

B15 13. A power management system according to claim 2 in which switching to a low power state by a power controller takes place after a predetermined delay and a re-examination of the status of the signals from the power modules.

14. A power management system according to claim 2 in which monitoring of input signals by the power controller takes place after switching to a low power state, and the component is switched to a high power state if one of the input signals from the power modules indicates that another component wishes to make use of it.

15. A power management system according to claim 2 including a system timer to schedule predetermined switches between low and high power states.